

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 30 No. 12

December 15, 1962

Whole No. 363



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 39

SATURDAY NIGHT

A weekly family story paper published from Sept. 30, 1865, to July 6, 1901, 1867 issues. Davis and Elverson were the original publishers. Davis dropped out in 1879 and James Elverson was sole publisher to the end. It was of regular story paper size 14½x22 inches with 8 pages. Black and white illustrations. Sold for \$3.00 per annum. Featured serials aimed at all members of the family. Of interest to dime novel collectors are the serials featuring Co-chise, the Apache Chief and other stories about the contemporary West. Even a story featuring Buffalo Bill is included. A listing of all stories and a complete history of this story paper has been issued as Bibliographic Listing No. 11. See ad this issue of Roundup.

A Final Word on the Pseudonyms of Edward S. Ellis

By Denis R. Rogers

In his article, "Miscellaneous Pseudonyms" ("Round-Up", Feb. 1961), Mr. Adimari lists twelve pen names of Edward S. Ellis.

The available evidence on eight of the names has already been discussed in my own "Round-Up" articles and so there is no need to do more than refer interested readers to the appropriate issues and Ellis pen name categories. Captain (Alfred) D. Hynes
Ralph Ringwood

Captain Ringwood—all April 1959

Circumstantial category

Chester F. Baird, April 1959

Possible category

Nick Wilson, April 1959

Proven category

The Ex-Reporter, March 1959

Proven category

Lucie St. Deane, March 1960

Probable category

Herrick Johnstone, September 1960

So far as this name is concerned the circumstantial evidence is strongly adverse to Ellis authorship and it would be unwise to change the improbable pen name category on the strength of a mere assertion.

One other name was included in the Probable Ellis pen name category in the Appendix to the article (July 1960) but, owing to a misunderstanding, the evidence, which was due to appear in

Part III (April 1959), was not published. Therefore I welcome this opportunity of rectifying the omission.

George Henry Prentice: This name was used for three early Beadle tales, one in *The American Tales* (No. 24, *The Wood Demon. A Legend of the Susquehanna*, 30 June 1865) and two in *Beadle's Dime Fiction* (No. 1, *The Marked Bullet*; or, *The Squaw's Reprieve. A Tale of Border Life*, 15 Nov. 1864 and No. 7, *Gottlieb Gootsoock*; or, *The Bride of the Wilderness. An Episode of the Border*, 16 May 1865).

"The Wood Demon" is a slender little story about a young doctor, who is shot in the head by Indians, whilst hunting in Kentucky. The wound disturbs his sanity, which is fully restored by a further shot. In the interim he haunts the Susquehanna home of his fiancée, who believes him dead. The plot bears a strong resemblance to that of "The Haunted Wood" by Edward S. Ellis (No. 3 *Chapman's Sunnyside Series*, December 1866) and the cause and cure of derangement by bullet wound is also to be found in "The Frontier Angel" by Edward S. Ellis (No. 15 *Beadle's Dime Novels*, January 1861).

The publication dates of the three novels do not fit George Henry Prentice into the pattern of Ellis' pseudonymic history so neatly as those of

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Published Monthly at

821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

Edited by

Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

Second Class Postage Paid at Lawrence, Kansas

Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., S. Grafton, Mass.

Asst. Ed. Photography—Charles Duprez, 228 Larch Lane, Smithtown, L.I., N.Y.

Ad Rates — 6c per word, \$1.00 per inch, quarter page \$2.25, half page \$3.00 and Full Page \$5.00. — 4 times for the price of three.

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the Edwin Emerson tales do that pen name ("Round-Up", March 1960), but the style is very similar to that of the Ellis tales of the period. Moreover both "Gottlieb Gootsoock" and "The Death Shot" have a number of characters, which match stock Ellis types.

That leaves three names which, hitherto, had not been ascribed to Ellis in print and so I set out below the available evidence so as to complete the record:

C(larence) L. Edwards: Some years ago I studied the single tale by this author, which was published by Beadle ("The Dacotah Queen; or, Pat Muloney's Pilgrimage. A Romance of the Indian Country, 5-DF, 14 March 1865) and found nothing to suggest Ellis authorship. This name should now be added to the list of Improbable Ellis pen names.

John J. Marshall: Two of the Marshall tales, which were published by Beadle ("The Outlaw Brothers; or, The Captive of the Harpes. A Tale of the Early Kentucky Settlements", 2-DF, 13 Dec. 1864 and "The Deer Hunters; or, Life and Love in Ottawa County," 4-DF 14 Feb. 1865), have been studied. They do not match the Ellis style of the period and the subject matter of the other Beadle tale by Marshall ("Roving Ben; or, The Cruise of the Adelaide. A Story of a Young American who wanted to see the World," 9-DF, 11 July 1865) is also out of place amongst Ellis' writings at that time. This name should be added to the list of Improbable Ellis pen names.

Max Martine: In the "Saturday Star Journal" (August 1872) an announcement of "Trap, Trigger and Tomahawk" describes the author as Henry M. Avery (Major Max Martine) and a biographical sketch about Avery is to be found in "The House of Beadle & Adams" by Albert Johannsen (Vol. II, Pages 22/24). I know of no reason to doubt that Henry M. Avery was a flesh and blood person and a study of two of the Max Martine stories ("The Tangled Trails; or, Signals of Danger," 83AN, 27 Jan. 1872 and "Sharp Eye, the White Chief of the Sioux. A Romance of the Far West," 111AN, 18

Feb. 1873), has revealed nothing to support the suggestion that Max Martine might have been a pen name of Edward S. Ellis. In fact the plots are crude and the writing is far inferior to that of even the earliest Ellis tales. Almost certainly Harold M. Avery was the true author. Therefore this name should be added to the list of Disproven Ellis pen names.

On the general issue of research standards raised by Mr. Adimari I believe that well reasoned evidence will always carry conviction. That being the case I will leave readers to judge for themselves which approach produces desirable results.

NOTE

Charlie Duprez writes that the New York Daily News carries a column titled "I Remember Old Brooklyn" and suggests that the Round-up publishes a similar column titled "I remember my old time novel days." Sounds good. Let's hear from all of you on your remembrances and we will try to devote a column each month to the subject. To kick it off, my late father used to enjoy recounting the misadventure of a boyhood chum named Jim Snow who was an avid reader of Wild West Weekly. Jim decided to imitate his hero and visited a local riding stable, procured a horse and having surreptitiously borrowed his father's pistol, rode to the edge of town, Moncton, N. B., and there spurred his horse and fired his pistol into the air in true Wild West style. The horse took off on a scared gallop and Jim Snow found himself tumbling in the dusty road, the laughter of a number of chums who had come along to witness his triumph ringing in his ears. He confined his western adventuring to the pages of Wild West Weekly in the future.

NEWSY NEWS

Mr. Ralph D. Gardner is interested in hearing from anyone having letters or any other manuscript material written by Horatio Alger, Jr.

Author and Artist of the Street & Smith Staff

By J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

Marmaduke Russell's drawings for the Buffalo Bill Stories may be seen on Nos. 123, 129, 137, 141, 146, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 157, 163, 164, 165, 166, 168, 170, 171, 172, 174, 175, 178, 180, 182, 184 through 267, a remarkable run of 83 numbers that should rank high as Western illustrations, particularly Indian fights—and if you doubt it, get out your copies of these numbers and look at 'em!—290, 292, 293, 295, 296, 297, 318 and his last.

Edward Johnson's drawings for the Buffalo Bill Stories may be seen on Nos. 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148, 161, 162, 167, 173, 176, 177, 179, 181, 183, 281, 283, 302, 303, 329, 330, 340, 341, 344, 345, 350, 354, 357, 360 and his last.

F. A. Carter's on Nos. 364, 365, 367, 368, 370, 373, 375, 377, 380, 383, 387, 388, 391, 392, 395, 397, 401, 402, 406, 407, 410, 415, 418, 425, 427, 428, 433, 443, 446, 456, 459, 478, 480, 488, 493, 501, 510, 513, 519, 520, 533, 534, 551, 552, 569, 589, 591 last number B. B. S.

Robert Emmett Owen's on Nos. 490, 537, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547.

The Buffalo Bill Stories ceased publication with No. 591 in 1912 and was succeeded by New Buffalo Bill Weekly the following week, issued in the standard novel size of that day, 8x11, for half a year or more, then reduced in size with smaller type to run for a total of 364 issues, all reprints from start to finish, a few having the titles changed. Charles Wrenn did most of the early covers for this publication, and F. A. Carter most of the later ones, although there was a third artist whose name I don't know who did some.

Although so successful with his nickel novel covers, Wrenn had a great desire to branch out into other avenues of his art. So he made a part time arrangement, spending three days a week with Street & Smith, and

working for many of the New York magazines and book publishers. D. Appleton & Co. kept him busy with detective novels by Natalie Sumner Lincoln and juveniles by Joseph A. Altsheler. Fleming H. Revelle sent him many books of adventure, including some thrilling stories by Wallace, of "Lure of the Labrador Wild" fame. Wrenn's quest of adventure took him to Haiti, where he made many sketches of native life.

But 'way deep in him was a compelling urge to paint portraits. So he closed up shop in 1920 and went to Italy and France to study. He worked there for two years, then returned to New York and did exceedingly well at portrait painting. But it was well interspersed with his old adventure stuff. I've already spoken of the covers he did for Ranch Romances, both when owned by Clayton and by Warner Publications.

In September 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Wrenn took a trip up the Labrador Coast to Battle Harbor and St. Anthony, the Grenfell Mission Station, where he made many drawings. "The influences of those old nickel thrillers," Wrenn declared after the trip, "is still with me."

The End

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup, Nos. 1 to 237 for sale. Some reprints, all interesting, 12 for \$1.00 or all 237 numbers for \$18.00 postpaid.

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NEWSY NEWS

The Sept., 1962, issue of CLIMAX, a McFadden-Bartell Corp. Magazine, contains an article titled "The Battle For Buffalo Bill's Bones." It is a rather bizarre account of an attempt that was to be made to remove the body of Col. Cody from his tomb on Lookout Mountain near Denver, Colorado, to another location.

Buffalo Bill died in Denver in 1917 and three cities vied with each other to receive his body and inter it. Denver, Cody, Wyoming and North Platte, Nebraska all had figured largely in the life of Col. Cody, and each city figured to capitalize on his burial place as a future tourist attraction. Denver won the right and Cody was buried in a grave of solid rock on top of lonely Lookout Mountain, and his wife Louisa May Cody was later buried by his side.

It is a strange story, this tale of an offer of \$10,000 made to any man or group of men who would remove the body by a certain date, (the year was 1948), and bring it to Cody, Wyoming, for re-burial, where it was felt it rightfully belonged.

The writer of this does not recall any publicity on this at the time it happened, but a facsimile of a Denver newspaper article at the time seems to confirm it as a fact. It is a very intriguing article but makes for good reading. There is a lot said in the story about Buffalo Bill's wife. Most students of Col. Cody know that his matrimonial life was far from happy, and the story confirms this fact. Pictured is architects model of Buffalo Bill Memorial which has not been built.—Gerald J. McIntosh.

THE BEADLE STORIES AS LITERATURE

The Davis Library of Exeter, New Hampshire, the library of Philip's A-

cademy with an enrollment of 800 students and 50 teachers recently put on display as a CIVIL WAR ITEM, a number of Beadles stories from the collection of Rev. Roland D. Sawyer. Beadle's first story was published June 1860 and others followed monthly. Success was not good till the war broke out, then the soldiers wrote back home for them and Beadle got them out twice a month. They were the small size, just right to slip into a soldier's pocket. Beadles added to them issues of Patriotic songs, Patriotic speeches, poems, etc., which became war literature for the men down south and 100 years later, collector's items all over the land.

—Rev. Roland D. Sawyer

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- 236. Fred Zulli, 44 E. Magnolia Ave., Maywood, N. J. (New member)
- 237. Louis Bloch, So. Orange Rd., Derry, N. H. (New member)

A DIME NOVEL COLLECTOR'S BOOK SHELF

by Edward T. LeBlanc

All dime novel collectors, to one degree or another, accumulate books about dime novels. They are the ephemera that enhances the main body of the collection. They lend respectability to dime novels which even now is tainted in the mind of the unknowing public. The barbs and arrows launched against dime novels during their heyday has not yet been completely erased. Most librarians and other professional men of letters have come to recognize the dime novel as an invaluable source of contemporary information, tastes, and conditions.

The books are listed at random and there are probably many missing. I'll be glad to add any which is brought to my attention.

MALAESKA, The Indian Wife of the White Hunter, by Mrs. Ann S. Ste-

phens with introduction by Frank P. O'Brien. 254p. John Day Company, New York, 1929. This is reprint of the first Dime Novel published.

DIME NOVELS, by Edmund Pearson. 280p. Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1929. A superficial history of dime novels based on too little knowledge. Well illustrated.

VILLAINS GALORE, the Heyday of the Popular Story Weekly, by Mary Noel, 320p. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1954. A very good history of the story papers of the 19th century. Some good illustrations.

(to be continued)

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11	Saturday Night, by Denis R. Rogers (Illustrated cover) -----	2.00

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Part II | 283 The James Boys in the Saddle
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est & Plain, Part III | 284 Meet Dewey Miller |
| 250 Buckskin Men of Forest & Plain
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